

Dear FCC Members:

I work part-time in my local town Library, and I also am a producer of live, authentic, community video programs through our local Public Access Channel. We have been able to bring many 'grass roots' voices within the community to speak on Progressive News Network, on issues ranging from education, health, bank red-lining, veterans affairs, the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, migrant labor, prison reform, etc. to name only some. It is crucial to the vibrancy of our democracy that these locally-produced news programs not only continue, but expand in frequency and participation.

The creation of these Video Franchise Agreements, negotiated at the local level and involving members of the local town council, our school and community representatives, working *directly* with Cable and Telecommunication companies, have assured our community for the last three decades, that the three pillars of real democracy: Public, Educational, and Governmental access at the local level, would flourish and result in a better 'product'.

The new rules being proposed for these Video Franchise Agreements would gut our active participation and result in more 'canned and bottled' programming, and force out our critical voices while corporate and private interests would come to dominate, in the guise of 'competitive' bidding. Our democracy does NOT NEED more commercialization! Our communities are already suffering from this kind of media production. I therefore implore you not to adopt the proposed new regulations.

Respectfully yours,

Eleanor L. Ommani, retired NYC educator